

A DILEMMA

A Story of the Paris Commune

By LOUISE REVERE

At the fall of the second empire of France, when Napoleon III was de-throned, the communists of Paris took possession of the city. They comprised that element which brought about the reign of terror during the French uprising against the Bourbons in the previous century, only the former revolutionaries were led by a mingling of patriots and demagogues, while the latter were led by impractical idealists.

Among these commune leaders was a young artist, Gaston Boyer, who was as much of a poet as an artist. There is something fascinating in the enthusiasm of these dreamers who would bring about a Eutopia. At any rate, Boyer was much beloved by all who knew him. Mlle. Adele Boivisant, a person of very different ideas from him, met and fell in love with him and, her love being returned, after their engagement did all she could to eradicate his wild notions.

However, at the first movement of the commune in 1870 Boyer threw himself into it and became the captain of one of the bands or companies in that force which obtained the control of Paris. For several days they held the power to inaugurate any governmental system they chose and had they begun to lay the foundations for such a system would undoubtedly have held it longer. But, having reached a point where their dreams must either become a realization or fall to pieces, like the wave that trembles before it breaks, the communists, not knowing what to do with their power, remained inactive, let it fall and went down with it to their ruin.

During the last struggle with those who were striving to place France again under a governing power Gaston Boyer was dangerously wounded. Being nearer the residence of his fiancee than his own home, he told those who were dragging him from the clutch of the victors to carry him there. They did so. Mlle. Boivisant received him and, finding that he was bleeding profusely, hurried out to secure the services of a surgeon.

This was just preceding that slaughter of communists which was the most pitiful accompaniment of any modern revolution. The prisons were filled with them, and in groups they were taken out into the yards, placed with their faces against a wall and shot down without mercy. In the general massacre even children were made to suffer with the rest. This method of destroying anarchy is a bloody page in the history of government.

Gaston Boyer, fighting desperately and holding his men together at the barricade he defended, was a marked man to his enemies. The officer who led a battalion of infantry against him when he took the barricade sent Lieutenant Bertrand with a file of men to get possession of the communist who had given them so much trouble. Bertrand had to fight his way after those who were carrying Boyer, but managed to keep them in sight and saw them bear him into the home of his fiancee. Entering the house, the lieutenant found a surgeon there with instruments pertaining to his profession in his hands, but no one else.

"How now, M. le Docteur?" exclaimed the lieutenant. "What are you doing here without a single patient when so many wounded men are needing your attention elsewhere?"

"I was just going out to serve the poor fellows when you entered."

"That story will not go down with me. A wounded communist has been carried here one of the most stubborn of the lot. It is evident that you have been treating him. Where is he?"

"If you think there is any one here you want all you have to do is to search the house."

"And so I will." Bertrand sent his men up and down stairs, instructing them to ransack every corner, while he was reserved for himself a bedroom out of which he had seen the doctor coming when he entered the house. He opened a closet door, looked behind a lounge and lifted the valence of a bed. From the latter place he dragged forth Mlle. Boivisant, trembling like a leaf and pale as death.

Now the searcher by this discovery was thrown off the scent at the moment when he was within a few feet of the man he sought. Boyer had been carried into the room and, at the moment the surgeon, who had just arrived, was attempting to stop the flow of blood from the communist's wound, there came up the sound of armed men below.

"Heavens!" exclaimed Adele. "What shall we do?"

"There is but one hope," said the surgeon. "Let me lift him under the head. Possibly they may not think of looking there for a brave man."

With help Boyer got under the bed. Then the surgeon suggested that Adele go under it with him and hold a towel up against the wound to stanch the flow of blood with the hope of preserving her lover from death. She succeeded in doing so, and at the same time the surgeon passed out of the room.

"There is a game here," said the lieutenant. "Doubtless, mademoiselle, you are concealing a lover, but I am at a

loss to understand why you should conceal yourself."

Adele stood shivering, but made no reply. She expected every moment that Bertrand would look under the bed. But small things will often turn the course of events. The fading of a girl instead of a man directed the course of the searcher's thoughts in a different channel. He had had no thought of finding a badly wounded man under the bed. He had looked there as a timid woman would do the same thing, not expecting to find a burglar, but to satisfy herself that no burglar is there. A puzzle occupied the lieutenant's mind. Why had the girl hid from him?

"Do you know where the communist who was carried in here is to be found?" he asked Adele.

A still more important problem than the one that occupied Bertrand's mind confronted Adele. If she denied knowing what he asked he would continue his search. She might say that her lover had been spirited away. In that case Bertrand would force her into showing him where he had been taken. This might save Boyer from being shot, but he would likely bleed to death. What should she do? She must take a risk. The surgeon knew his patient's condition, and there was a possibility that he would see her leave the premises with the soldiers and go to Boyer's rescue. All this was through Adele's brain instantaneously. She resolved to cling to the one chance. She admitted that she knew of the communist's whereabouts. Cocking his pistol, the officer pointed it at her and told her to show him the way. "He can't have gone far," he added, "in his condition."

"No," gasped Adele mechanically—"not far!"

She led him downstairs and out through a back door into a yard that opened on an alley way. While doing so she looked about her to see if there was any one in the house who would care for her wounded lover. Not a soul appeared. The fighting in the neighborhood had scared all away. She hoped she might catch a glimpse of the surgeon, but he was nowhere to be seen. Doubtless he had gone out and was ministering to other wants than those of the man upstairs alone under the bed. The poor girl was taking the only chance to save her lover's life, but she was oppressed with the thought that she was leaving him to die alone.

In the yard she stood still, not knowing just what to do. She looked up at the rear of the dwellings, on either side of the house she had left, hoping she might see some one to whom she might communicate by sign a request to go in and succor her lover. But the attention of all was upon the street, where the firing had not yet ceased, and had she seen any one how could she make him understand?

"Lead on!" thundered the lieutenant, aiming to terrify her.

Adele went through the opening leading out to the alley and, turning, passed to the street. There she was about to lead the officer farther when he stopped her.

"It is absurd for you to try to make me believe that a wounded man would be carried so far. This fellow is doubtless very near, and you know it. Take me to him or I will blow out your brains."

He looked at her so fiercely that she was half inclined to believe he would. But just then there was a rattle of musketry very near them, and a crowd of communists came running past them with terror. Adele was knocked off her feet and, getting up, yielded to a desperate resolve. Without looking for Bertrand she joined the communists in their mad flight.

Having escaped from the officer, she went around the block and into a house near her own, from whence she sent a messenger to learn if it would be safe for her to go home. The messenger came back and reported that the house was deserted. Taking the risk of Bertrand's having returned to seek her, she went home and looked under the bed where she had left her lover. He was not there.

She was encouraged. It was likely that help had come to him, and yet he might have been discovered and carried away to prison. Going downstairs she was about to leave the house when the surgeon entered. She stood looking at him in an agony of suspense.

"He is saved," he said, "and by your presence of mind."

"How?"

I lurked near till I saw you go out with the officer. Then, summoning assistance, we carried the wounded man through the yard after you had left it to a house where I succeeded in taking up the artery through which blood was escaping and stopped the bleeding. Come, I will lead you to him."

When the massacre of communists was over and Paris had settled down under the republic, one morning a wed-ding party entered the Church of the Madeleine. The groom was Gaston Boyer and the bride Adele Boivisant. There was now no danger for either. After the ceremony the couple departed for Brittany, where the artist resumed his legitimate work.

One feature of Paris since the temporary triumph of communism has changed. The east front of the historic palace of the Tuilleries is not there. But the fountains play and the children sport in the garden where it stood. Yet the reign of kings and the reign of emperors have ended. A republic that has taken their place has lasted forty years. But where is that Eutopia, the commune? It lived in the minds of its votaries for many years to be lifted at last on to its pedestal. But it had no sooner been placed there than it fell of its own weight. Alas, for the brave men and women and children who paid for their vision with their lives.

List of Books Added to the Jarvie Memorial Library During the Month of March, 1912.

FICTION.	
Abbott, L. T.	Naomi of the island.....A132n
Barr, Robert	Lady Eleanor, lawbreaker.....B658
Bartlett, F. O.	The guardian.....B80g
Bennett, Arnold	Matador of the Five Towns.....B460mat
Benson, Ramsey	Knight in denim.....B77k
Bowen, Majorie	God and the king.....B70g
Brady, C. T.	Chalice of courage.....B812c
Broadhurst, George and Hornblow, Arthur	Bought and paid for.....B863b
Braster, D. K. and Taylor, G. W.	Chantemerle.....B874c
Brudno, E. S.	One of us.....B888o
Bryant, Marguerite	Adjustment.....B915ad
Buckrose, Mrs. J. E.	Toll bar.....B925t
Chester, G. R.	Fifteen thousand an hour.....C5243f
Chesterton, C. K.	Manalive.....C525ma
Cullum, Ridgwell	One-way trail.....C607o
Curwood, J. O.	Flower of the north.....C682i
Erskine, Payne	The mountain girl.....E73m
Ferber, Edna	Buttered side down.....F340b
Glass, Montague	Abe & Mawruss.....F3492a
Hornun, E. W.	Fathers of men.....H816f
Hough, L. nerson	John Rawns.....H838j
Ingram, E. M.	From the car behind.....I542i
Jepson, Edgar	Pooleycy.....I549
Ladd, A. C.	Hieronymus rides.....I554h
Lisie, David	Cap'n Joe's sister.....I577p
London, Jack	Painter of souls.....L919c
Lowndes, Mrs. M. A. (B.)	House of pride.....L975my
Lutz, Mrs. G. L. H.	The chink in the armour.....M02p
Machaughton, S.	Mystery of Mary.....M234t
Major, Charles	Peter and Jane.....M379i
Martin, Mrs. H. (R.)	Touchstone of fortune.....M48v
Matthews, Brander	Fighting doctor.....N062ho
Nicholson, Meredith	Vistas of New York.....N072ho
Orczy, M. R. M. J. R.	Hoosier chronicle.....N072ho
Barones...	Noble rogue.....N0641no
Oxenham, John	High adventure.....N088hi
Putnam, N. W.	In search of Arcady.....P092i
Roberts, T. G.	Rayton, a backwoods mystery.....P644i
Sienkiewicz, Henryk	In desert and wilderness.....S572i
Stevenson, B. E.	Mystery of the Boule cabinet.....T114c
Taber, Susan	Country neighbors.....T087p
Tynan, Katharine, pseud.	Paradise farm.....W685bu
Wilkins, M. E.	Butterly house.....W893s
Woodrow, Mrs. Wilson	Sally Sal... USEFUL AND FINE ARTS.
American Academy of Political and Social Science	Country life.....L630 Aslc
Bruce, H. A. B.	Scientific mental healing.....L615.851 B88s
Jacoby, G. W.	Suggestion and psychotherapy.....L615.851 J17s
Philippi, Adolf	Florence.....L709.45 F54f
Ree, P. J.	Nuremberg and its art to the end of the 18th century.....L709.43 P32n
Ridgway, Robert	Birds of North and middle America.....L582.8 L54b
BENSON, A. C.	LITERATURE AND BIOGRAPHY.
Curtis, G. W.	The silent Isle.....L84 B47s
Curtis, G. W.	Orations and addresses of George William Curtis.....L815 C87o
Curtis, W. E.	The true Abraham Lincoln.....L92 L73c
Wheeloock, J. H.	Human phantasy.....L811 W56i

NOTICE.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, held on the 15th day of April, 1912:

Whereas, it is in the interest of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that an asphaltic concrete, tar bound or asphalt bound concrete curb line be constructed on the easterly side of the roadways of the highways of the town, in the manner described, more particularly described, therefore, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that an asphaltic concrete curb line be constructed on the easterly side of the roadways of the highways of the town, in the manner described, more particularly described, therefore, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that an asphaltic concrete curb line be constructed on the easterly side of the roadways of the highways of the town, in the manner described, more particularly described, therefore, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and 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